

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE : 20 SEPTEMBER 2005

RURAL SERVICE PRIORITY AREAS UPDATE

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the Council's bid for additional areas to be incorporated within Rural Service Priority Areas. (RSPAs).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The establishment of RSPAs within a large portion of the southern reaches of the Council's area was reported to Committee on 31 May 2005. However the Committee noted that there was an opportunity to bid for further RSPA designation and agreed that, if appropriate, a submission would be made.
- 2.2 After examining the criteria for nominating additional RSPA prepared by the Scottish Executive, a submission to extend the boundary of the agreed East Ayrshire RSPAs to include all of Patna and Catrine was submitted.

3. REVISED EAST AYRSHIRE RSPA

- 3.1 In July 2005 the Environment and Rural Affairs department of the Scottish Executive informed the Council, on the basis of its submission, that data zone ref S01001312 (Catrine) had been selected as an additional RSPA (with SO1001269 – Dalmellington, New Cumnock; and SO1001276 – New Cumnock having previously been selected).
- 3.2 Although it was indicated in the letter from the Department that the final boundaries for the RSPAs within the Community Planning Partnership area remained outstanding and would be finalised in Autumn 2005, it is hoped, on the basis of previous discussions, that all of Catrine and Patna will be confirmed as being within the RSPAs.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report. The Scottish Executive has yet to allocate funding in respect of RSPAs.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report, but it should be noted as previously reported to Committee, that research commissioned by the Scottish Executive will be made available to the Council to assist in establishing specific targets against which improvements in service delivery within the RSPAs can be measured. On the basis of the targets, an Action Plan against which bids for funding will be assessed by the Scottish Executive will be agreed.

- 5.2 At its meeting on 31 August 2005, the Council's Corporate Management Team approved the contents of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to
- (i) note that Catrine (data zone ref. S01001312) has been nominated as a RSPA and that detailed boundaries have yet to be agreed; and
 - (ii) receive further detail on the commissioned research and action plan arising in due course.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support
8 September 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Letter from the Scottish Executive dated 11 July 2005

Report to Policy and Resources Committee 31 May 2005, Rural service Priority Areas

Any person wishing further information should contact Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager (Tel: 01563 554602) or Karl Doroszenko, Policy and Projects Manager, Planning, Development and Building Standards (Tel: 01563 576751)

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

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